the CROSBY voice

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY

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Hello again,
With Christmas almost upon us yet again, we present for your entertainment and edification, this, the third and final edition of 'The Crosby Voice' for 1982. And again, this is the biggest edition of the club magazine yet, pipping our last issue (also a record) by a further four pages!

There is, we hope, much to interest you in this edition, starting with our new cover. The photograph and title frame have been 'borrowed' from that excellent little paperback 'Bing Crosby' by Barbara Bauer - one of the series of Pyramid books featuring various movie stars. It makes a nice change from our familiar title plate and we'll use it for the next two or three issues.

The recent months have seen the passing of three people closely connected with Bing and his career - two of his loveliest leading ladies and a man who goes back to the earliest days of the Crosby musical career. We speak of course of Grace Kelly, Ingrid Bergman and Al Rinker. On page 30 we feature photographs of Grace and Ingrid by way of tribute whilst on page 5 you'll find a tribute to Al Rinker - an obituary which appeared in an American newspaper plus a couple of photographs taken at Al's appearance four years ago at the first Bing Crosby Historical Society Tribute at Tacoma.

Australian members will find enclosed a copy of a catalogue of tapes available from Arnold Baker in the U.K. Arnold has over 100 cassettes of various Crosby items for sale at reasonable prices and details of where to write will be found elsewhere in the magazine. The only reason that overseas members will not be receiving catalogues is the cost of postage. (However, we may relent at the time of compiling the newsletter so if you live overseas and find a catalogue with your newsletter, please ignore the foregoing!!!)

The major news of 1982 was undoubtedly the mid-year Crosby auction and may I offer a special thank you to all members who sent me clippings on the occasion. However, as most cover news already featured in our last issue, we weren't able to use them. The one exception is the contest run by the 'Star' newspaper in New York which offered a number of Crosby items won in the auction as prizes to members. (Please note: the contest was run last June

so it's well and truly over.) One final note on clippings - it is very difficult for us to obtain clear reproduction, especially from photographs, if you send Xerox copies of articles. We would really appreciate it if you could forward original copies of newspaper and magazine pages.

As I started to write earlier, there should be much to interest you in this newsletter. Dorothy Lamour recently visited Australia (unfortunately Sydney only) for stage performances and we feature two articles on her. On pages 9 and 10 is a recent article from U.S. People magazine whilst on page 24 is an article that dates back to 1943 taken from Tempo magazine. Finally, on page 28 is a short newspaper clipping telling of her visit to Australia plus some fascinating news of a soon to be issued (?) single featuring Bing and David Bowie, taken from the soundtrack of Bing's last Christmas special. There was a pirate issue of this track several years ago, but this would be the first legitimate release.

Speaking of Tempo magazine, on pages 23 - 26 we feature several pages from this magazine including a double page spread of stills from Bing's 1941 movie 'Birth of the Blues'.

On pages 35 and 36 we reproduce reviews of about 50 of Bings movies from the invaluable book 'Movies on TV'.

We can't end this little preamble without mention of a valuable new aquisition for the society. It's a photocopy, provided with the generous approval of the Bing Crosby Historical Society, of hundreds of the press clippings used in the compilation of the book 'Bing Crosby - the Hollow Man'. These clippings date back to the late 1920's and go through to 1977. Over the next few years they will provide a gold mine of information for our 'From Our of the Past' pages. At this point in time, I won't divulge the name of the generous US member who undertook to arrange the photocopying for us in case he would prefer to remain anonymous - but if he has no objection, we'll reveal his identity in the next newsletter.

Melbourne now has a new/old cinema screening vintage movies. You can read about it on Page 12.

And now, as always, let's lead the magazine off with news of our future functions.

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FUTURE FUNCTIONS

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MONDAY DECEMBER 6TH - MOVIE EVENING - 'HOLIDAY INN'

In our last interim newsletter, we mentioned that we'd take a vote at the October 18th meeting whether to screen 'Holiday Inn' or 'Dr Rhythm'. However, a show of hands revealed that the members were pretty evenly divided, so we took the democratic way out - we tossed a coin. No prizes for guessing which film won!

Being so close to Christmas, we thought that we'd make this a very special meeting wherein every member who attends gets something extra.

So for a start, we have baked a giant blue and gold Christmas cake which will be cut up and distributed to all present. Overseas and interstate members - sorry, but cake doesn't travel too well. However, we will take a photograph to publish in the next newsletter.

We'll also have the raffle to end all raffles with prizes including the Reader's Digest 6 cassette set 'Bing Crosby sings', a 3 cassette set of 'Tom Sawyer', a copy of the rare soundtrack LP 'Road to Hong Kong' plus other LP's and at least two books including another copy of 'The Movie Musicals' by Miles Kruger.

We'll also have Crosby LP's for sale to members at $2 - $3 below the regular retail price.

As supporting attraction to the movie we'll either have some shorts or some Crosby music on cassette.

Starting time will be 7.30 SHARP. So please, plan to arrive between 7.00 and 7.15. The earlier you arrive, the more we can fit in and the longer for coffee at interval.

Venue, as always, is the theatrette of the Mobil Building, 2 City Rd, South Melbourne, behind the new Melbourne Concert Hall.

Cost of entry:

Members: $2
Member families: $5
Pensioners & Junior members: $2
Temporary membership for non-members: $4 per head

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 1983 - FILM EVENING

No details at this stage, but keep this date free for our first meeting for next year.Almost certainly we'll have a film evening.

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PAST FUNCTIONS

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MONDAY AUGUST 16TH - MOVIE NIGHT - 'TWO FOR TONIGHT' and 'ONE HOUR WITH YOU'.

Around 60 members turned up for this one and enjoyed a great double feature. Although 'Two for Tonight' was not one of the classic Crosby films (it seemed like someone had attempted to write a 1930's 'screwball' type comedy for Bing but gave up half way) it was nonetheless entertaining and featured some very fine Crosby vocalizing.

'Two for Tonight' was a very sophisticated comedy for 1932 and it's just as well that the film wasn't made a couple of years later when censorship had tightened up considerably. Maurice Chevalier was at the top of his form and demonstrated again that true quality never reallydates.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH - A NIGHT AT TIKKI AND JOHNS MUSIC HALL

The jokes were old (probably old when Bing was a boy) but there was no mistaking the warmth and sincerity of our hosts at Tikki and Johns. For the uninitiated,Tikki and Johns is a Melbourne institution and has been so since it was opened about 15 years ago. For a reasonable price (even more reasonable because we subsidized it down to $17 a head) one gets dinner and a show in the old music hall tradition.

Certainly, the 50 members and their friends who came along had a most enjoyable time and the function will be repeated next year, possibly at a different venue for variety. (No pun intended!)

MONDAY OCTOBER 18TH - AGM AND MOVIE NIGHT -'ROAD TO MOROCCO'

Once again, we had a good turnout of members with more than 60 fronting for the annual task of electing the Committee to run the

Al Rinker, 74; Composer Sang With Crosby

Burbank, Calif. (UPI) — Composer Al Rinker, who gave Bing Crosby his start in music and sang with him as one of Paul Whiteman's Rhythm Boys, died Friday of cancer, it was disclosed yesterday. He was 74.

Rinker, a brother of the late blues singer Mildred Bailey, hired Crosby in the 1920s to be a drummer and singer in his small dance band, the Musicaladers, in Spokane, Wash.

The band soon broke up, but Rinker and Crosby, then a colleges student and part-time law clerk, formed a duet and went on the vaudeville circuit.

They caught Whiteman's attention while playing at the Metropolitan Theater in Los Angeles. The band leader made Miss Bailey the first featured female singer and teamed Crosby and Rinker up with Harry Barris to form the Rhythm Boys, whose recording of "Mississippi Mud" in the late 1920s was one of the first million-selling records.

Rinker, who composed songs for films from the 1930s to the 1950s, also set to music the lyrics of Scottish poet Robert Burns recorded in the Jo Stafford album, "My Heart's in the Highlands."

society for the next twelve months. A report on the results plus President and Treasurer's report follows.

Formalities out of the way, we moved on to more interesting things - the screening of the third of the 'Road' movies - 'Road to Morocco'. To everyone's pleasure, the movie has worn surprisingly well and provided a great many laughs for the appreciative audience.

It was especially pleasing to see Thelma Wood along at the meeting. Thelma, as most of you know, was taken ill at the start of 1981 and has not been able to attend many meetings since. Beaut to see you again Thel and we hope it will be the first attendance of many.

Thelma Wood (how lucky can you be!) also won a cassette set of Bing's Musical Autobiography in the raffle for the evening. Other lucky winners were Laurie Roberts (a copy of 'The Movie Musicals') and Lee Michael (Bing & Louis LP).

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AGM REPORT

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Executive Committee for 1983

It is my pleasure to inform you that the following people will be running the Society for you in the coming 12 months.

President:	Bob Machliss
Vice-President:	Ken Orren
Treasurer:	Keith Dorman
Secretary:	Les Saynor
General Committee:	Josie Conway
	Sylvia Harding
	Jim McManus
	George Styles
	Bill Bennett

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NEW RECORDS

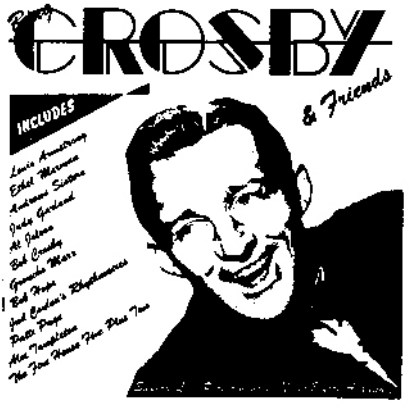
Bix 'n' Bing – With The Paul Whiteman Orchestra R 10847

The Paul Whiteman Orchestra was one of the most exciting and interesting collections of musicians ever assembled. Eddie Lang, Red Nichols, Joe Venuti, the Dorsey Brothers, Frankie Trumbaer and Bill Rank are just a handful of the star-quality jazz players who were amongst its ranks at one time or another. The recordings most sought after by present-day collectors, though, are the ones which feature those two legendary figures, Bix Beiderbecke and Bing Crosby. Together they imparted to the orchestra a magical quality which shines through just as strongly today as it must have in the late 20's when these tracks were made. The fabulous Rhythm Boys are an added bonus on some selections: Tracks: Changes; (What Are You Waiting For) Mary; Mississippi Mud; There Ain't No Sweet Man That's Worth The Salt Of My Tears; Sunshine; High Water; From Monday On; Lovable; My Pet; Louisiana; Do I Hear You Saying "I Love You"; You Took Advantage Of Me; Tain't So, Honey, Tain't So; That's My Weakness Now; Because My Baby Don't Mean 'Maybe' Now; I'm In The Seventh Heaven; Reaching For Someone; Oh, Miss Hannah; Your Mother And Mine, Waiting At The End Of The Road. From Living Era. $6.99.

Submarine Records in the U.K. have recently issued the LP you see opposite. All material has been taken from radio broadcasts and from reports, sound quality is very good.

Bix 'n'Bing We've already reviewed this one in an earlier newsletter, but it's worth noting that World Record Club, 605 Camberwell Rd, Hartwell, have it for the very good price of only $6.99.

Songs of a Lifetime which originally came out on Philips about 4 years ago has re-appeared on the 'Rainbow' label minus the original title and now appears simply as 'Bing Crosby – Extra Long Play'. Record: 6641 944. Case: ELP 014. The set features Bing & Buddy Cole with added orchestra accompanyment.



(AGM Report Cont.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Mercifully edited)

Welcome to the sixth annual general meeting of the Victorian Bing Crosby Society. I don't know how many of the original group who gathered together one August afternoon back in 1977 thought that we'd still be meeting like this today, but here we are. In fact, we are one of the most active, if not the most active Crosby societies in the world today.

The role of the Society continues to be as was drafted in our original constitution: Firstly, to increase public awareness and understanding of Bing's contribution to popular music, and secondly, to provide opportunities for both collector's and admirers to meet at regular intervals. We believe that these objectives have both been met in the past 12 months through a variety of means.

In February, for example, we loaned the ABC a number of rare Crosby recordings which they featured in an edition of their Saturday night programme 'Sentimental Journey' (later repeated on Good Friday) and which lead directly to a full page write up in the Melbourne Sun newspaper. As a direct result of that article, we gained the largest influx of new members since the society was formed.

We also receive invaluable publicity through our fortnightly exposure on Neville Wragg and Clarke Sinclair's Sunday night 3AW programmes 'Remember When'. I'd like to again thank Neville and Clarke for the opportunity to publicize the group.

Of course, not all news about Bing in the past 12 months has been favourable. Nor has it been favourable for Kathryn either.

Firstly, there was that book 'The Hollow Man' which we've covered quite thoroughly in the pages of 'The Crosby Voice'. I suppose that in hindsight we should consider the wisdom of the old adage - 'There is no such thing as bad publicity'.

The other big news even of the year was Kathryn's auction of many of Bing's personal effects. This also generated a great deal of publicity - much of it unfavourable. Once again, this even has been well-documented in the pages of the club magazine and this is no time to get into a discussion about it now - save to say that you shouldn't believe everything you read in the newspapers! Cont/...11

IT'S TOUJOURS LAMOUR— DOROTHY IS BACK ON THE ROAD AGAIN AT AGE 67

All it took was a yard and a half of tropical printed silk and a few volcanic curves, and Dorothy Lamour did for the sarong in the '30s and '40s what Brigitte Bardot would later do for the bikini. With a hibiscus in her dark hair and a sultry smile, the former Mary Leta Dorothy Slaton ("Lamour" is a variant of Lambour, her stepfather's name) first appeared in a sarong in the 1936 film The Jungle Princess *with Ray Milland. Then came her legendary collaboration with Bing Crosby and Bob Hope in the famous "road pictures"—*Road to Singapore *(1940),* Road to Zanzibar *(1941),* Road to Morocco *(1942),* Road to Utopia *(1946),* Road to Rio *(1948),* Road to Bali *(1953) and* Road to Hong Kong *(1962). The daughter of a Louisiana waiter and a waitress, the 1931 Miss New Orleans began her 50-year career in show business as a vocalist with bandleader Herbie Kay, who was briefly her husband. Later she married William Ross Howard III, an advertising man, and they raised two sons—John, now 36, and Richard, 32, both businessmen. Over the years Lamour made 50 films and also performed on TV, stage and in nightclubs. Now 67 and widowed for four years, Dorothy is opening a new cabaret act at Club Ibis in Manhattan, highlighted by film clips and her famous movie melodies like* The Moon of Manakoora. *Before heading East from her North Hollywood home, Lamour reminisced with Suzanne Adelson of* PEOPLE.

People associate you most closely with Hope and Crosby. How do you feel about that?

I think we made the greatest team in the world, but I got along very well without them. I was a star before those road pictures, and I'm still working. If I had to depend on Bob today for my livelihood—to have three meals a day—I'd starve to death.

Did Bob and Bing laugh it up on the set?

Mostly they would ad lib, playing with the lines I'd worked so hard to memorize. The night before our first film together, *Road to Singapore*, I naively studied my script like crazy. When it came time, the ad libs started flying every which way. I kept waiting for a cue that never came. In exasperation I said, "Please, guys, when can I get my line in?" They stopped dead and laughed for 10 minutes.

How did you fight back?

One time, during a scene in *Singapore*, I was washing their clothes in a tub with these long-lasting suds that wouldn't melt under hot lights. Bob and Bing began throwing suds at me. Finally I grabbed a huge can, chased them across the sound stage and dumped the suds over their heads.

Did you socialize off the set?

No, I always went right home to get ready for the next day's shooting. Still, we had a warm relationship. They called me "Mommie" because I was always taking in stray cats on the set. Bob used to be like an older brother to me, but these past few years we've sort of drifted apart.

Any reason?

Let's just say the old charisma isn't there anymore. Bob's gone one way, and I've gone another.

How was your relationship with Bing?

He was a very remote person off-screen. You just had to take Bing the way he was that day. If he felt like clowning around and being funny with you, fine. If he didn't, you just took it in stride.

What was he like as a father?

I don't know his new wife, Kathryn, and their three children too well. But the four sons from his first marriage used to visit the set, and he was delightful to them.

Did you go to Bing's funeral?

I asked if I could attend, but was told Mrs. Crosby wouldn't allow many of his old friends to be present. That hurt my feelings. She said Bing wouldn't have wanted a lot of people there. I knew he never liked funerals. I've sworn off most of them myself.

(Pres. report cont. from page 8)

As a Society, we have again had a very successful year. As you will see in the Treasurer's Report, we've done very well financially. As a result, we are again able to peg membership fees at the same level as before. Given the inflation of the past 5 years, this means that you are actually paying only half as much per year as when we started!

The main reason for this, of course, is our film evenings and raffles which help keep us well in the black. However, the object of this society is not to make an annual profit so we are constantly looking at ways to give money back to you. The two most successful ways so far are the subsidizing of social functions and records for members. Any other suggestions are more than welcome.

One other way we'll be spending money is in the further upgrading of our newsletter 'The Crosby Voice'. For the majority of our 300 members, this is the only contact that they have with the club, so in future, we'll be adding to our photo pages and generally smartening up our presentation. The newsletter is our largest single expense, costing more than a dollar an issue to prepare plus mailing which goes ever-upwards!

In 1982, we've been able to screen a number of Crosby movies unshown for many years: The 1936 'Anything Goes', 'College Humour', 'Rhythm on the Range', 'Going Hollywood', 'Two for Tonight', and 'Road To Morocco'.

I mustn't forget that during the year we also conducted a very successful joint function with the Sinatra Society - a video evening at which, amongst other tapes, we showed Bing's 1971 TV drama -'Dr Cooks Garden'.

In the past 12 months, we held two very successful functions of a social nature - an evening at Tikki and Johns and a chicken barbeque in February - two functions which will be repeated in 1983.

The club's cassette library continues to be popular with members - in particular, the tapes donated by the widow of the late Keith Hyde - Edna. It was her intention that the tapes, known as the 'Keith G Hyde' bequest', help keep Keith's name alive, and they

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SOUTHERN CROSS, Wednesday, September 1, 1982

Matinee magic at the old Astor

ST Kilda's old Astor theatre on the corner of Chapel St and Dandenong Rd, celebrates its re-opening on September 17 with classic 1933 version of King Kong.

It's been at least 10 years since English-speaking films have been shown at the Astor and the September 17 opening heralds a spate of nostalgia films including "Blood and Sand", "Wizard of Oz", "High Society", "Some Like It Hot" and "Jailhouse Rock".

New manager George Florence has also lined up some Marx Brothers, Chaplin an Bogart classics along with a number of films from the silent era, a highlight of which will be the 1922 version of "Blood and Sand" starring 20's heart-throb Rudolph Valentino.

In recent years the Astor has catered only to the Greek-speaking community with films and concerts and was closed completely in February this year.

The revival will be nostalgia all the way with musical scores to accompany the silent films and live entertainment supplementing the speaking films, kicking off with the pulsating rhythm and dance of "The African Drums" for King Kong.

And staff will wander up and down the aisles with confectionery trays — a once-popular feature of Melbourne cinemas that has not been seen for 20 years.

"All these things create an atmosphere that we want to re-establish at the Astor," said Mr Florence.

"That's why we're concentrating on the nostalgia films."

Apart from minor renovating, the theatre will present the same face to cinema-goers in 1982 as it did when it opened in 1934 under the same name.

Lending a hand with the re-opening is Australia's oldest film technician/projectionist, Wally Waterfall, 84, who worked for 17 years at the Astor.

Mr Florence has 200 free passes to give away for the opening night of King Kong and the African Drums.

The free tickets will go to the first 200 applicants who should phone the theatre on 51 1414 between 10am and 4pm on Friday, September 10.

most certainly have done that.

Very little remains but to thank the various people who have helped to keep the group functioning smoothly: Ken, Keith, Les, Josie, Sylvia, Jim, George and Bill. Thank you also to Mobil who provide this theatrette and supper without charge and a special thank you to Wally, our hard-working projectionist.

Finally, thank you all - without whom we would have no Victorian Bing Crosby Society, and of course, a thank you to Bing for making it all possible.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Financial Statement as of 16th Sept. 1982

Cash at Bank - 7th Oct. 1981		$802.17
Receipts		
Membership fees	$1023.85	
Cassette library	121.00	
Records & Tacoma discs	180.00	
Raffles and film nights	1124.65	
Bank Interest	28.04	
BBQ entrance fees	190.00	
Tikki & Johns night	759.00	
Misc.	18.10	
		$3444.64
		$4246.81
Less expenditure		
Film hire	302.00	
Books, cassettes, records	797.37	
Raffle prizes	105.28	
International Sinatra Society (printing)	329.90	
Paull's BBQ services	300.00	
Tikki and Johns (inc. refunds)	988.00	
Australia Post	315.40	
Repairs - HI Fi system	65.50	
Misc.	68.00	
		$3271.45
CASH IN HAND (16th Sept. 1982)		$975.36

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LETTER FROM PAT SULLIVAN
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(Pat Sullivan is the immediate past-President of the Club Crosby in the United States. A few months back, she circulated this letter to a number of people. As it contains news of interest to all of us, I'm sure that Pat won't mind us reproducing extracts from her letter here. BM)

Nathanial played in the US Open at Pebble Beach on June 17 - 20. He was the low-scoring amateur so that was an honour for him. Kathryn was present at the tournament and will also be with him at the British Open being played in Scotland this year July 15 - 18. From there he plays the Porter Cup, World Series of golf and the US Amateur Open. His dream is still to be on the World Cup team before he finishes college and decides whether he will turn pro.

Harry Crosby is in New York and has recently completed a master's degree in Business Administration at Fordham University.

Mary Frances is still committed to her acting career, and a comprehensive account of her recent activities appeared in Parade magazine (Sunday newspaper supplement) June 20th, 1982.

I wrote to Kathryn a week before the auction asking if some of the smaller items could be set aside at the Corinthian Studios (where everything was sorted and labeled) before being shipped to the Butterfield Galleries. Then, those fans who could not attend the auction would have a chance to purchase something.

A was astounded to receive a response from Kathryn by telephone. She talked for nearly an hour, apologizing for not answering letters, etc. "All that is going to change", she commented. "I have been literally underground - that's where Bing's files are - in the basement - researching and writing a two-volume book." The first volume, with over 200 pictures, is now at the publisher in Chicago and will be ready around Christmas.

Although Kathryn liked the idea of putting things aside for Bing's fans, she mentioned it was probably too late as everything had been moved to Butterfields and was listed in the catalogue. She did say

that if anything was left, it would be moved back to the Corinthian.

Kathryn is also involved in choosing TV segments of Bing singing 'White Christmas' and 'Silent Night' for an upcoming Christmas special which will feature Christmas songs that have won Gold records. Apparently, all the videocassettes of Bing's TV shows are stored in the basement at Hillsborough, and at the auction she asked if Priscilla or I would help her with the task of selecting the best versions of the songs. A quick check of the Crosby videography I am compiling indicates that Bing sang 'White Christmas' many times in his television career but 'Silent Night' only twice! Kathryn also mentioned that the TV shows would be re-released to the networks little by little.

I was invited to attend a reception preceding the various auction sessions and to bring along my 'party'. She was quite excited when I told her that Graham Reade from Australia was coming over especially for the auction, and she even mentioned that on a promotion bit she did for TV that same evening.

Kathryn, her sister and brother and their spouses, and Gary Crosby and his new wife were in attendance all four nights. Bing's sister, Mary Rose and her husband, attended the first evening.

I learned for the first time that Gary Crosby had serious triple bypass heart surgery about 1½ years ago. Apparently he stayed at Hillsborough for his initial convalescense. He looked extremely fit and remarked that he had never felt better. His book is also at the publisher and will be released later this summer.

We were all quite dazed by the interest in the auction and the frenzy of bidding, particularly at the final auction on Friday which featured the memorabilia. We all managed to acquire a few minor items, but hats, pipes, etc. were all out of sight - $200 and up.

Kathryn stopped the auction at 6.00 pm because it was already three hours past the original closing time. All remaining items were moved back to the Corinthian Studios in Saratoga.

The whole affair was an extraordinary event and one that I won't forget. Kathryn seemed quite concerned about this in our telephone conversation and said to explain a point, "Pat, one Crosby pipe is wonderful, even 25 is wonderful, but I have over 150 pipes!"

Our Friday 'party' for the memorabilia auction had swelled to over twenty and besides the California contingent and Graham from Australia included Carmel Gallegos from Hawaii, Ted and Elenor Kasper from Texas, Larry Kiner from Washington State, etc.

I had to leave early on Saturday morning so I missed Kathryn's tea. Priscilla and Graham attended and I hope I will have a rain check. I might add in closing the auction chapter that Kathryn looked better and sounded happier than she has in years.

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ANNOUNCING - THE AUSTRALIAN THEATRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Always glad to bring news of items which may be of interest to our members, we are happy to bring you details of the recently-formed Society identified above.

The aim of the society is to create an interest in theatres, both cinemas and legitimate houses, and also to create a library and eventually a museum of artifacts.

Membership is $8 p.a. which includes four issues of the ATHS magazine 'Kino'. For further details, please send a stamped addressed envelope to: The Secretary, ATHS, 7 Keats Ave, Kingsbury, Victoria, Australia 3083.

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NEW MEMBERS

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Every year about this time, we list new members to the society. We've had quite an influx in the past 12 months, so here we go:

Margaret Carmody 155 Station St, Carlton 3053.
Harold & Evelyn Podem 195 Kooyong Rd, Nth Caulfield 3161
Peter McGregor 15/39 Nepean Highway, Elsternwick 3185
Bill Grenfell 223 Essex St, West Footscray 3012
Gordon Kirby Box 1144K, GPO, Melbourne 3001
Charles B Deggcs Jr 11730 Moffitt Lane, Manassas, Virginia 22111 USA
Richard Fromwiller 53 Birkdale Rd, Cheektowaga, New York 14225 USA
Ronald Holmes Box 89 Queenstown, Tasmania 7467
Ron Seccull 58 Monash St, Ascot Vale 3032
Lee Miechel 13 Illawarra Rd, Hawthorn 3122
Bill Patey 59 McGregor St, Middle Park 3206
Cyril & Pearl Stokes 240 Gap Rd, Sunbury 3429
Stan Sunley 97 Medway St, Box Hill Nth 3129
John Millard 12 Venetian Crt, Croydon 3136
Steven Thomas 126 South St, Rydalmere, NSW 2116
Eunice and Alan Barry 76 Doyle St, Avondale Heights 3034
John & Rita Joyce 21 Birchfield Gardens, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE 9 7TJ England
Mark Scrimger 314 E Main St, Parma, Michigan 49269 USA
Alwyn May Shaw 10 Broadmeadows Rd, Tullamarine 3043
David Rentz 9 Gluyas St, Farrar ACT 2607
Peter Henderson 6/34 Grange Rd, Fairfield 3078
Ruth & Ivor Holst 38 Illawarra Cresc, Nth Dandenong 3175
Herbert & Helen Joyce 4 Belmore Rd Balwyn 3103
Trevor Robbins 2 Minaki Ave, E.Doncaster 3109
Harry & Laurel Scott 81 Hubert Ave, Glenroy 3046
Nola Sherwell 69 Queensville St, West Footscray 3012
Sheldon O'Connell 12464 Breault, Pierrefonds, Que. Canada H8Z 1B4
Felicity Rhodes 8/43 Church St, West Footscray 3012
Robert Finn PO Box 222, Bundoora 3083
Peter Liiv 63 Bayne St, Bendigo 3550
Durham Garton 20 Clarendon St, Armadale 3143

Len & Gwen Giddins 14 Gairloch Ave, Jan Juc
Debbie Ottrey 3/11 Talaskia Rd, Upper Ferntree Gulley 3156
Harold Cross 23 Chirnside Cresc, Laverton 3028
Peggy Bardi 5 Brentwood Cresc, Frankston 3199
Thomas Farnan 6 Cecil St, Fitzroy 3065
Archie Craig 2 Moorhouse St, Richmond 3121

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LETTERS
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From Gordon Richardson, Coburg

I was a crooner myself in my teen years, singing with the 'Radio Rhythm Band', Coburg, and at the Martini with Hal Kennedy's Band around the early 40's until the Second World War interceded.

After I returned I was in Sale, doing rehabilitation, when I was sponsored for the 'Danny Kaye - Save the Children Fund' broadcast through 3TR Sale on a national hook-up programme.

When you've been involved and sing Bing's songs yourself, you realize what a truly great singer he was and still is.

I am an invalid pensioner now, croaky of voice and physically in a bit of pain, but my greatest solace is playing Bing Crosby and listening to him sing.

From David Ward, Lincoln, England

May I say how much I enjoyed my first years membership and your magazine 'The Crosby Voice' which features information that somehow eluded the others.

My deep regret is that I cannot join in those excellent film nights that you have for your members. But the information in the souvenir programme sheets really makes interesting reading and in some respects makes up for missing out.

I really look forward to the Christmas issue of 'The Crosby Voice' and may I wish you and your family all the good health in the world.

Win one of Bing's favorite pipes and other Crosby treasures in great STAR contest

WHEN Bing Crosby's widow sold off all his souvenirs recently, the eyes of the world were focused on the San Francisco auction room.

Bee Gee Barry Gibb spent over $10,000 on some of the Crooner's possessions, singer Neil Diamond bought one of Bing's paintings, and there was controversy surrounding the sale of Christmas presents from Frank Sinatra.

And the STAR was right there bidding along with the superstars to buy some of Bing's favorite possessions to offer to our readers in a chance-in-a-lifetime competition (see details on this page).

Now, one lucky STAR reader will have a chance to own one of Bing's favorite trademark pipes, a rare Collector's Kaywoodie, and a wall plaque that used to hang in Bing's home naming him "USO Honorary General, Bing Crosby, 1975."

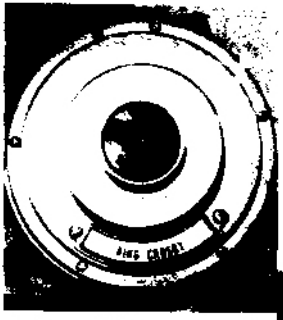
He or she will also have a chance to win one of Bing's fishing reels in brass with his name engraved on it, along with the woven fishing creel basket that he used to bring home his catch and his bait.

The STAR also outbid the competition to buy a folding top hat worn by Bing for his publicity pictures along with a photograph of the singer wearing it.

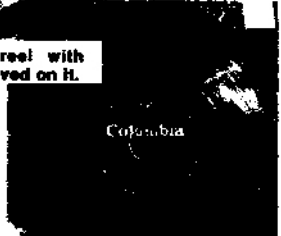
And the winner will also get a copy of Bing's very first recording.

The record, in perfect condition, comes from his own private collection and features Bing singing "I've Got The Girl" with Don Clark and his Los Angeles Biltmore Orchestra.

These priceless collectables are now being offered to readers of the STAR — with one lucky person winning them all.



A brass fishing reel with Bing's name engraved on it.



Bing's first ever record, from his private collection.

HERE'S HOW TO PLAY

A PIECE of Hollywood history can be yours if you're the lucky winner in the STAR's Bing Crosby Souvenir Contest.

Someone will be awarded the treasured mementoes (pictured at right) from the great crooner's life which were recently auctioned off by his widow Kathryn.

All items are authentic and bring back memories of the man who was one of the biggest stars in the history of Hollywood.

To be eligible to win these truly personal mementoes, all you have to do is correctly identify the complete titles of the four famous Bing Crosby movies in which he is pictured below.

Then on the contest coupon provided, tell us what your favorite Bing Crosby movie is and, in 35 words or less, why it is.

If you wish, you may send your entry on a plain sheet of paper following the format of the coupon. You may send in as many entries as you like, but each must be in a separate envelope. And, most importantly, on the back of each envelope you must write out in order the titles of the four Bing Crosby movies. This is vital.

Completed entries should be mailed to: Bing Crosby Souvenir Contest, STAR, P.O. Box 5751, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017. Entries must be received no later than noon on June 30.

A .....

B .....

C .....

D .....

MY FAVORITE BING CROSBY MOVIE IS ...

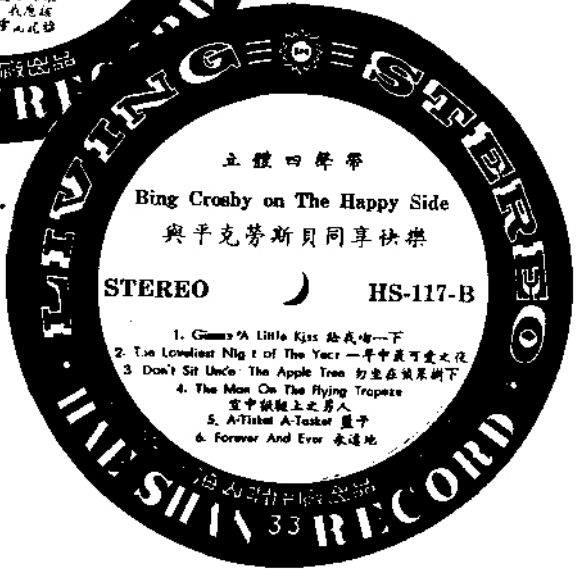
_____

BECAUSE _____

_____

****
COLLECTOR'S
****

We first featured this label in Collector's Corner a few years ago when the quality of reproduction was poor and our membership small. It's certainly worth another look. The Lp appears to be a pirate pressing out of Hong Kong. It's pressed on transparent yellow vinyl and the sound is quite good stereo. The other sleeve is cheap paper enclosed in plastic for protection. The recording is, of course, an issue of one of Bing's Singalong LP's from the early 60's.



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CORNER
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Here's another record that we featured in the early days of the magazine that deserves a re-run. Recorded on March 3rd, 1945, release was limited to just one-thousand single-sided pressings, each personally autographed by Bing. (That's his signature over the word 'Decca'. The label tells the story of the record.

Most of the singles Bing issued in the 1960's are rare today and this one is no exception. It dates from Sept. 28th, 1965 and although it was reissued on a general Christmas compilation LP, the original 45 is hard to come by. The reasons aren't hard to find. Bing's discs weren't selling well and poor-sellers didn't stay long in the catalogues!

TEMPO
The Australian Musical News-Magazine
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"GOING MY WAY"?

Well, Hitch Your Band-Waggon to a Paramount Star

And Enjoy

"SWINGING ON A STAR"

until

"THE DAY AFTER FOREVER"

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250 PITT STREET, SYDNEY

DOROTHY LAMOUR

Top Saleswoman for Uncle Sam

DOROTHY LAMOUR is one of the happiest—and weariest — stars in Hollywood. She has every right to be both.

The most active saleswoman on Uncle Sam's staff, Miss Lamour recently returned to Hollywood after an absence of six weeks and a tour covering 25,000 miles around the United States, in the interest of the Bond Sales campaign, U.S. Treasury Department. The results of the lovely star's efforts have made bond-selling history. This is the second highly successful tour Miss Lamour has made, the first, completed during the winter of 1941, having rolled up sales in such astronomical figures that the star was designated by the Treasury Department as "Uncle Sam's Niece plus 1." That's an honor which more than compensates Dorothy for her weariness.

The star's travels for the government, wide as they are, are second to her cinematic globe-trotting. For the movies, Miss Lamour has traversed the "Road to Singapore" and the "Road to Zanzibar." So successful was she in those travels, too, that Paramount promptly set her lovely feet on still another road — "Road to Morocco."

The moon and Dorothy Lamour are inseparable, cinematically speaking. In more than half of the total number of films she has made, the lovely Paramount star has sung about the moon.

The picture which co-stars her with Bing Crosby and Bob Hope, features as its leading musical number a song called "Moonlight Becomes You," by Johnny Burke and James Van Heusen. Dorothy sings it in a comedy sequence. And Bing sings it to her in a very romantic moment in the palace gardens. The palace belongs to Dorothy, who plays Princess Shalmar in this gay adventure of the globe-trotting Bing and Bob.

Movie fans will remember that it was a song Dorothy warbled in her first film, "Jungle Princess," which made her famous—"Moonlight and Shadows." Since then she has dealt with the moon in so many phases, it is hard to keep track of them. Some day the song writers will run out of ideas for titles and they'll have to introduce Dotty to a new planet, which will lend itself to tunesmithery.

There are three other songs in "Road to Morocco," sung by Bing, Bob and Dorothy, which you've been hearing and humming. They are "Constantly," "Ain't Got a Dime to My Name (Ho Ho Hum)," and "Road to Morocco."

Crosby's book five-year labor

By BOB DOWNING
Knight-Ridder Service

AKRON, Ohio — There's no mistaking the Crosby style: the smile, the friendliness, the graciousness. It radiates from Kathryn Crosby as she enters a room.

That Crosby charm will soon be shared in a new book about Crosby's late husband, Bing. The book, she says, has been a five-year mission that is nearing completion.

"Writing the book was necessary," Crosby said during a recent stop in Akron where her late husband was being named ambassador of golf during the World Series of Golf. "I felt that I had an obligation to the countless number of people who so loved Bing."

Scheduled to come off the presses early next year, the still-untitled book covers Bing Crosby's life up to 1965, including his marriage to actress Kathryn Grant in 1957.

A second book, already in the works, will cover the years from 1965 until his death in 1977 at age 73.

The books, being published by Collage Press, will be a combination biography and Crosby photo album, all written and put together by Crosby. The left-hand pages will be filled with photographs. The right-hand pages will contain two columns of text.

"I've been working on it since 1977," she said, pausing to sip her iced tea. "Maybe it's taken me so long because I needed the perspective that the passage of time allows. . . . I realize so much more now. At times, I allow myself to reminisce, but most of all I'm now aware that it was really such a good time.

"It's the story of our courtship and marriage and children and the Bing that I knew. That's what I'm sharing with people. It's about fun. We had fun."

Learning how to enjoy life was Bing's great gift to his wife.

"I wasn't always good at it," she confessed, "but I tried everything, and Bing would laugh at me.

"We had more fun and I learned what was important to Bing. Shooting, fishing, walking in the country — all those things were meaningful to Bing.

"Bing's files were enormous. The book covers the World War II era. That's well-documented. It also covers the early days of Hollywood — and that's an era that's gone today — and his friendships with the stars.

"I've tried to make it so much more complete. . . . It is, I think, rich and interesting and true. You tell the truth and that is stronger than the reputation of lies.

"People have this image of Bing from his films, and the thing that I realized is that that image is true: You can't lie to the camera. That's the kind of man that he really was.

"People who fell in love with him in the 'Road' shows know the real Bing. People saw the real Bing in his relationship with Bob Hope. That was real and wonderful."

Working on the book was, at times, lonely, said the 48-year-old Crosby. "People would ask what I've been doing for the last five years, and all I could say was that I was in the basement, writing.

"In a sense, I had to deprive myself of my first love — acting — to get the book done, but it was something that I had to do. It was necessary. It helped me put so many things together."

She is still trying to track down a handful of old photographs. One, she said, is from a benefit style show in Santa Barbara, Calif., in 1960. She modeled a serge and blue capelet nun's habit, one that had been created at Bing's request. "We called it 'Town and Convent,' " she recalled with a laugh.

It was the strength of her family, she said, that helped her adjust to Bing's death.

"Becoming a widow was painful. It hurt. I was alone. But it was also an education for me. Bing's lawyer and accountant and all the others were patient with me. They let me make my own decisions. They had to because I'm just bullheaded enough to want to do everything my way.

"Bing was protective. He'd say, 'Everything will be all right.' It took some time, but after a few years, everything did work out. It's a great life now."

Acting is still a driving interest in Crosby's life, although she admits that she's no longer suitable for ingenue roles and that interesting roles for older women are limited.

"In terms of acting roles, too much is made of the emptiness syndrome and widowhood, but this is really the most fascinating time of one's life, a feeling that should be expressed on stage or on film.

"At least that's the way that I've found it. Life doesn't end when you become a widow. You begin another act."

Wowie! It's Bowie and Bing

LONDON, Today, AAP. — The singing heart-throbs of two generations of teenagers, Bing Crosby and David Bowie, are set to become the most famous record duo yet.

A single of the famous performers singing "Little Drummer Boy" was recorded during a television how they made in 1979, the Sun newspaper reported.

But the Crosby family asked for it not to be released until now as a mark of respect.

• Meanwhile, another famous Crosby partner, Dorothy Lamour, was battling a cold when she arrived in Sydney by sea today.

The star of numerous films, Miss Lamour, 68,

• Dorothy Lamour

is here for a series of club performances in the next few weeks.

Her films have included "Road to Zanzibar," "Road to Morocco" and "The Jungle Princess."

 (From: "What Actors Eat - When They Eat" Pub. 1939)

BING CROSBY

Paramount Pictures
National Broadcasting Company

Actor and singer. Born in Tacoma, Washington on May 2, 1904. Height 5 ft. 9 in. Weight 165 lbs. Blue eyes and light brown hair. Real name is Harry Lillis Crosby. Educated at Gonzaga College and studied law. Married to Dixie Lee, professional and has four children whom he adores. Hobbies: concert music, football and short story writing, and of course, race horses. He has a string of them, and, as Bob Burns says, "That must be a hobby for they never win." Under contract to Paramount Pictures Corp. and broadcasts for Kraft Music Hall on National Broadcasting Co. network.

RED DEVIL

Pour the olive oil into a large skillet. If you are a devotee of garlic flavor (as I am), mince one small clove, and fry lightly in the oil. Then add the oregano, which is also optional, depending on your preference. Break the cheese into small pieces, put in the skillet, and about five minutes later, pour in the tomato soup (un-diluted). Cook very slowly over a low flame. Drain the liquid from the peas, and when the cheese has completely melted, and the mixture is thick and smooth, add these. Stir, and simmer a few minutes longer. Beat to a froth, two whole eggs, and at the last minute, carefully fold them in. Do not cook. Serve on squares of toast.

The combination of ingredients in this dish gives it a rare flavor which is particularly tempting when one's appetite needs a "lift".

The combination of ingredients in this dish gives it a rare flavor which is particularly tempting when one's appetite needs a "lift".

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 clove garlic (optional)
½ teaspoon oregano (optional)
1 can tomato soup
1 lb. American cheese
1 can peas
2 whole eggs (well-beaten)
toast

Bing Crosby

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INGRID BERGMAN - GRACE KELLY

****

A tribute to two of Bing's loveliest leading ladies

"Long-play albums dedicated to preserving the performances of BING CROSBY"

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1. "On The Air" Vol. 1
2. KMH March 12, 1942
3. KMH April 30, 1942
4. KMH April 14, 1942
5. "Der Bingle" Vol. 1
6. "Happy Holiday"
7. KMH May 27, 1937
8. "Sing You Sinners"
9. "Birth Of The Blues"
10. "Der Bingle" Vol. 2
11. KMH January 19, 1942
12. "Bing In The Thirties" Vol. 1
13. KMH December 24, 1942
14. "Bing In The Thirties" Vol. 2
15. "Holiday Inn" & "The Bells Of St. Mary's"
16. "Music Hall Highlights"
17. KMH May 29, 1941
18. "Bing & Connee"
19. "Music Hall Highlights"
20. "Der Bingle" Vol. 3
21. "Bing & The Music Maids"

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In Tune With Tempo . . . . . .

NO REST FOR THE GROANER

BING CROSBY isn't just relaxing while he has a few minutes off, although it might appear so. He's hard at work studying a script for one of his transcribed radio shows, between set-ups on Paramount's "The Emperor Waltz", in which he is co-starred with Joan Fontaine.

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NEWS FROM THE BING CROSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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From Ken Twiss

Iguess that the biggest and best news to come out of Tacoma in a long time about Bing is our signed contract with Dr Eugene Wiegman, past president of Pacific Luthere University, to raise funds to purchase Bing's birthplace.

This will be a world-wide effort. We hope to give all Bing fans a chance to be part of owning the house. There is a lot of preliminary work to do such as finishing a brochure and letters, but all should be ready in a couple of weeks, and we hope to kick off by placing our newly acquired miniature of the bronze statue of Bing from Gonzaga at a bank here in Tacoma. There were only 50 cast and we were very lucky to be able to get one.

We are now members of the Downtown Tacoma Association and they are impressed with the progress that we have made in doing something for the community. They will help us with publicity etc along the way. The local Chamber of Commerce is also aware of our work and have promised to help in any way that they are able.

It really is a nice feeling to know at last that a dent is being made in the attitude towards Bing in Tacoma. They are just beginning to realize the great value in having Bing as a native son.

Recently I went to San Mateo for a meeting of the recently formed 'Bing's Friends and Collector's Society'. It was a very nice affair. Mary Rose and Jim Poole were guests of honour. All 36 places were filled and Bill Osborn was M.C.

.....

JOIN THE B.C.H.S.

The Society is always looking for new members and all are welcome. Address: PO Box 8013, Tacoma, Washington 98408 USA. Sub: $10 p.a.

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BITS 'N' PIECES
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* If, like me, you've puzzled about the line in Bing's record of St Louis Blues when he sings "Saint Louis woman, with her ------- hair" and wondered exactly what Bing was singing, member Durham Garton offers the following information.

When the song was originally composed, the line was "St Louis woman, with her soap on hair" which Durham informs us reflects a fashion of the times. Apparently, coloured people of the era used to rub soap on their hair to give it a distinctive shine. (Is that where the title of Bing's classic record with the Mills Brothers comes from?)

Later, when the fashion changed and also when the song gained wide popularity, the words were changed to 'store bought hair' - an obvious reference to wigs. Thanks Durham.

* 'Living Era' records who issued the 'Bing and Bix' LP covered elsewhere in the magazine, are a record company worth your attention. At present, they seem to be concentrating on the late 1920's and early 1930's period and have produced LP's by such artists as Frank Crumit (a particular favourite of mine), Rudy Vallee, Cliff Edwards, George Formby (Snr & Jr) and many others. Although the records are a little expensive here ($10.99) World Record Club is featuring a few such as 'Bing and Bix' at only $6.99. If members are interested, we will arrange to have copies available at meetings for sale at the subsidized price of $8.00.

* Hope and Crosby meet again! Only this time, the Crosby was Nathanial. At the 18th annual All-American College Golf Foundation dinner, Bob presented a special achievement award to Nathanial, reigning US Amateur Champ.

* Does anyone have details of a Crosby Christmas TV special put together by Kathryn that has not been shown yet in Australia? As far as I know, only one special has been aired here.

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EXTRACTS FROM 'MOVIES ON TV'

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Never being shy to copy a good idea when we see one, we borrow the following from our friends of the International Sinatra Society. The 1982-83 edition of "movies on TV" (Bantam Books, $5.95) lists and reviews about 50 of Bing's movies. As follows:

Anything Goes (1936)***½ Bing Crosby, Ethel Merman. The original Porter score makes this watered-down production mod-erately entertaining. "You're the Top" number with Ethel is the lamit. TV title **Tops is the Limit.** (Dir: Lewis Milestone, 100 mins.)

Anything Goes (1856)***½ Bing Crosby, Donald O'Connor, Jeanmaire, Mitzi Gaynor. Musical comedy co-stars in Europe try to sign a leading lady for their show. The film needs more sparkle. Great Cole Porter score. (Dir. Robert Lewis. 106 mins.)

Bells of St. Mary's (1945)***½ Bing Crosby, Ingrid Bergman. Priest and Mother Supe-rior make plans to entice a wealthy skin-flint to build them new surroundings. Se-quel to "Going My Way." Still entertain-ing (Dir. Leo McCarey, 126 mins.)

Birth of the Blues (1941)***½ Bing Crosby, Mary Martin. Minor story of a trumpet player who supposedly organized the first Dixieland jazz band. A delightful score and good performances. (Dir. Victor Schertzinger. 85 mins.)

Blue Skies (1946)*** Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, Joan Caulfield, Bing, Fred and 20 Irving Berlin tunes add up to pleasant entertainment. Plot is corny, but it doesn't get in the way. (Dir. Stuart Heisler, 104 mins.)

Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, A (1949)*** Bing Crosby, Rhonda Fleming, Cedric Hardwicke. The Mark Twain tale of a blacksmith who is transported back to the time of King Arthur, uses modern methods to overcome obstacles. Lavish mu-sical fits Crosby like a glove; good fun. (Dir: Tay Garnett, 107 mins.)

Country Girl, The (1954)***½ Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly, William Holden. Superlative performances in a dynamic drama about a performer wallowing in self-pity who has a chance to make a comeback. Kelly won the Oscar for her portrayal, but Crosby is no less effective, gives the acting effort of his long career. Fine film. (Dir: George Seaton, 104 mins.)

Dixie (1943)***½ Bing Crosby, Dorothy Lamour. Some good minstrel numbers in this fictitious biography of a famous min-strel man, but story is weak and tiresome (Dir: A. Edward Sutherland, 89 mins.)

Doctor Rhythm (1938)***½ Bing Crosby, Beatrice Lillie, Mary Carlisle. Forced, unfunny comedy about a doctor who puch-hits for a policeman friend on a "routine" bodyguard job. The Lady Peel's many fans will enjoy watching several of her delightful routines. (Dir: Frank Tuttle, 80 mins.)

East Side of Heaven (1939)*** Bing Crosby, Joan Blondell. Singing taxi driver finds himself custodian of a baby left by a young mother. Tuneful light comedy, pleasingly done. (Dir: David Butler, 100 mins.)

Emperor Waltz, The (1948)*** Bing Crosby, Joan Fontaine. Pleasing operetta finds Bing as a phonograph salesman trying to sell one to Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria, and wooing a countess on the side (Dir: Billy Wilder, 106 mins.)

Going My Way (1944)***½ Bing Crosby, Barry Fitzgerald. Director Leo McCarey's improvisatory style rescues this light me-dy from excessive coyness. The most sen-timental sequence (such as the tear reunion of old priest Fitzgerald with his mother from Ireland) are filmed in a unaffected manner that downplays the pathos. (130 mins.)

Here Comes the Groom (1951)*** Bing Crosby, Jane Wyman, Franchot Tone, Alexis Smith. Likable Frank Capra come-dy with songs about a happy-go-lucky reporter who competes with a real-estate dealer for the hand of a girl. Nice songs, general air of good fun. (Dir. Frank Capra, 115 mins.)

High Society (1956)*** Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Celeste Holm, Louis Armstrong. Musical version of "The Philadephia Story," about the efforts of a wealthy man to win back his ex-wife who's about to be remarried, and the reporters who become entangled in the romantic complications. With a stellar cast and a Cole Porter score, it should have been better than it is, but somehow it lacks the sparkle of the original. Nevertheless, pleasant fun. (Dir: Charles Walters, 107 mins.)

High Time (1960)*** Bing Crosby, Fabian, Tuesday Weld. What happens when a wealthy widower returns to college to complete his education. Episodic comedy starts excellently but wears thin before the conclusion. Generally good fun (Dir Blake Edwards, 103 mins.)

Holiday Inn (1942)***½ Fred Astaire, Bing Crosby. Irving Berlin's finest music ("White Christmas," "Easter Parade," "Be Careful, It's My Heart"), plus Bing and Fred add up to a screen delight. (Dir Mark Sandrich, 101 mins.)

Just for You (1952)***½ Bing Crosby, Jane Wyman, Ethel Barrymore. Pleasant comedy-drama with many musical mo-ments thrown in for good measure. Bing plays a successful B'dway producer who sets out to win his son and daughter's affection after a long period of concentrat-ing only on his career. Miss Wyman plays the woman in Bing's life and young Natalie Wood (age 14) plays Bing's daugh-ter. (Dir. Elliot Nugent. 104 mins.)

King of Jazz (1930)***½ Bing Crosby, Paul Whiteman. Musical revue in two-color Technicolor, blackout gags, vaudeville turns, Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," as-sorted production numbers and—to be sure not to miss anything in this early musical)—a brief animated cartoon se-quence. Lively musical fun with early 30's flavor. (Dir. John Murray Anderson. 120 mins.)

Little Boy Lost (1953)***½ Bing Crosby, Claude Dauphin, Christian Fourcade. War correspondent returns to France in search of his son, born during World War II, whom he has never seen. Tender, touch-ing drama, with Crosby carrying it off in fine style. Should cause the ladies to reach for the hankies (Dir: George Seaton, 95 mins.)

Man on Fire (1957)***½ Bing Crosby, Inger Stevens, Mary Fickett, E. G. Marshall. One of Crosby's few non musical films. The crooner plays a man with a custody problem concerning his son and his di-vorced wife. Melodramatic soap opera (Dir: Ranald MacDougall, 95 mins.)

Mississippi (1935)*** Bing Crosby, W. C. Fields, Joan Bennett. Pleasant musical about a young man who refuses to fight a duel and takes refuge as a singer on a showboat. A few good Rodgers and Hart tunes, plus Fields's work as the captain add up to some entertainment. (Dir: A. Edward Sutherland. 84 mins.)

Mr. Music (1950)***½ Bing Crosby, Nancy Olson, Charles Coburn. Bing as a com-poser who would rather golf and loaf than work, and the attempts to get him into action. Mild story, below-par tunes, but Crosby carries the load well. (Dir Richard Haydn, 113 mins.)

Out of This World (1945)***½ Eddie Brack-en, Diana Lynn, Veronica Lake. Good farce plot is poorly handled. Story of a crooner who makes the girls swoon has some funny moments, but is generally forced comedy. Bracken is the crooner, and he borrows a familar voice (Bing Crosby's) for the occasion (Dir: Hal Walk-er, 96 mins.)

Paris Honeymoon (1939)***½ Bing Crosby, Shirley Ross, Franciska Gaal. Pleasant inconsequential Crosby film about the ro-mance of an American with a French peasant girl. (Dir. Frank Tuttle. 85 mins.)

Pennies from Heaven (1936)*** Bing Crosby, Madge Evans, Edith Fellows, Louis Armstrong. Wandering drifter befriends a homeless waif, soon has a pretty truant officer on their trail. Outdated but still amusing musical. (Dir: Norman Z. McLeod. 81 mins.)

Reaching for the Moon (1931)*** Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., Bebe Daniels, Edward Everett Horton, Bing Crosby. Snappy depression comedy with song as an antic, charming Fairbanks leaps all over some shiny art deco sets you won't believe! Still entertaining. Music by Irving Berlin. (Dir: Edmund Goulding. 82 mins.)

Rhythm on the Range (1936)** Bing Crosby, Martha Raye, Bob Burns, Frances Farmer. Cowboy Bing romances an heiress and a prize cow in this forced comic offering. (Dir: Norman Taurog. 88 mins.)

Rhythm on the River (1940)*** Bing Crosby, Mary Martin, Oscar Levant, Basil Rathbone. Nothing turns into something when handled by experts. A couple of successful ghost song writers try and click on their own, but only succeed in falling in love. Pleasant musical. (Dir: Victor Schertzinger. 94 mins.)

Riding High (1950)***½ Bing Crosby, Coleen Gray, Charles Bickford. Mark Hellinger's story about a businessman who'd rather spend his time at the race track is turned into a pleasant Crosby comedy with songs. Veteran comedy director Frank Capra keeps things snapping and a good supporting cast of pros, like Raymond Walburn, William Demarest and Bickford, give the film an added charm. Remake of "Broadway Bill." (112 mins.)

Road to Bali, The (1952)*** Later and lesser Hope-Crosby teaming, back in the South Seas with the spirits flagging and the color unflattering. (Dir: Hal Walker. 90 mins.)

Road to Hong Kong (1961)*** Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Joan Collins, Dorothy Lamour. The last of the "Road" pictures, with only a brief appearance by Lamour. The plot centers around a couple of hustlers who find themselves up to their necks in international intrigue and interplanetary hokum. A good supporting cast includes Robert Morley, Joan Collins, and last but not least, Peter Sellers. (Dir: Norman Panama. 91 mins.)

Road to Morocco (1942)*** Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Dorothy Lamour, Anthony Quinn. Zany Hope-Crosby comedy is a bit too silly, but still gets its share of laughs from their insults and encounters. A few good songs help out. (Dir: David Butler. 83 mins.)

Road to Rio (1947)*** Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Dorothy Lamour, the Andrews Sisters, Gale Sondergaard. Crazy, delightful antics in Rio de Janeiro expertly handled by experts. Good fun. (Dir: Norman Z. McLeod. 100 mins.)

Road to Singapore (1940)*** Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Dorothy Lamour, Anthony Quinn, Charles Coburn. First of the "Road" films and not much to offer except for Bob and Bing's presence. Zany tale about two playboys who go to Singapore to forget women. (Dir: Victor Schertzinger. 92 mins.)

Road to Utopia (1945)***½ Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Dorothy Lamour, Hillary Brooke, Jack LaRue. Vaudeville team involved in search for Alaskan gold mine but—forget the plot—this one is funny. (Dir: Hal Walker. 90 mins.)

Road to Zanzibar (1941)***½ Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Dorothy Lamour, Una Merkel, Eric Blore. Satire on all jungle pictures is the funniest of the "Road" series. Bing and Bob tour Africa as a couple of carnival hustlers. (Dir: Victor Schertzinger. 92 mins.)

Robin and the Seven Hoods (1964)*** Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Bing Crosby, Sammy Davis, Jr., Barbara Rush, Peter Falk. Entertaining musical spoof of the Prohibition days in Chicago. Sinatra and his cronies are well suited to their roles of small-time hoods who fleece the rich and give to the less affluent, like orphans and such. The original musical score is very good, including a couple of standout songs, "My Kind of Town" and "Style." The entire cast appears to be having a good time and so will you. (Dir: Gordon Douglas. 103 mins.)

Say One for Me (1959)** Bing Crosby, Debbie Reynolds, Robert Wagner. Bing back in priestly togs again, but this time he's almost defeated by a weak plot about a show-business parish, a chorus girl, and a night club manager with designs on her, all culminating in the Big Benefit Show. (Dir: Frank Tashlin. 119 mins.)

Sing You Sinners (1938)***½ Bing Crosby, Fred MacMurray, Donald O'Connor, Ellen Drew. Solid entertainment as Bing cavorts around as a wastrel who strikes it rich at the track. "I've Got a Pocket Full of Dreams" is from this film and, although there's not too much music, Crosby fans should love it. (Dir: Wesley Ruggles. 90 mins.)

Top o' the Morning (1949)***½ Bing Crosby, Barry Fitzgerald, Ann Blyth. Bing on the Emerald Isle, as he plays an insurance agent out to find who stole the Blarney Stone. Lately amusing comedy with Bing crooning the songs. (Dir: David Miller. 100 mins.)

Waikiki Wedding (1937)*** Bing Crosby, Shirley Ross, Martha Raye. Pleasant musical about a pineapple queen's experiences in Hawaii. As Bing is the press agent for the pineapples, we get a nice mixture of romance and comedy. (Dir: Frank Tuttle. 86 mins.)

White Christmas (1954)*** Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen. Colorful package of holiday entertainment for the whole family—songs, dances, clowning, plus Irving Berlin's title tune. The cast fits perfectly into the lightweight story which merely serves as a framework for the 15 musical numbers. Remake of Bing's "Holiday Inn." (Dir: Michael Curtiz. 120 mins.)

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OTHER CROSBY SOCIETIES
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BING'S FRIENDS & COLLECTOR'S SOCIETY 170 Terminal Ave, Menlo Park, California 95818 USA. Preident: Larry Gunn.

CLUB CROSBY PO Box 8283, Sacramento, California 95818, USA. President/Editor:Al Sutton.

INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE 7 Greenmeadow Close, Cwmbran NP44 4PJ, England. Editor: Reg Bristo.

KATHRYN CROSBY FAN CLUB 1374 Broadway, Apt 7D, West Somerville, Maryland 02144, USA. President: Caroline Dawson.

THE SOUTHAMPTON BING CROSBY CLUB 17 Edwina Close, Bitterne, Southampton, England. Editor: Jim Newell.

and of course THE BING CROSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY featured earlier.

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THINGS FOR SALE
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RECORDS

Two Melbourne record shops offering discounts to members are:

THE BENTLEIGH SEWING AND RECORD CENTRE, 348 Centre Rd, Bentleigh.
CUNNINGHAMS RECORD CENTRE, 80 Church St, Brighton.

Mention you're a member of the VBCS and they'll knock something off the price.

TAPES

Jonathan Russell, 10 Roxburgh Rd, Westgate-on-sea, Kent CT8 8RX England, has tapes of Bing's Philco and Chesterfield shows for sale. Write for details, enclosing an IMO to cover return postage.

Arnold Baker, 48 Groomsport Rd, Bangor, Co Down, Northern Ireland BT 20 5LR, whose catalogue is enclosed with this newsletter,

submits the following prices for his tapes.

For cassette:
UK - £3.00 inc post and packing
Overseas - £3.50 " "
USA - US$8.50 " " (airmail US$11.00)

For open reel:
UK - £3.50 " "
Overseas - £4.50 " "
USA - US $10.00 " " (airmail US$12.50)

(Reels are 5¾" or 7" - 1,200 ft)

For airmail rates to Australia, drop Arnold a line.

PUBLICATIONS

BING - JUST FOR THE RECORD
A hardback book listing all of Bing's records in both alphabetical and chronological order. Available from John Joyce (Bookbinders), Saltmeadows Rd, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE8 3 AH, England.

Costs: Australia £4.50 surface mail, £6.50 airmail
UK £3.50 postage paid
USA/Canada £4.00 surface mail, £6.00 airmail.

Please note that all remittances must be in sterling.

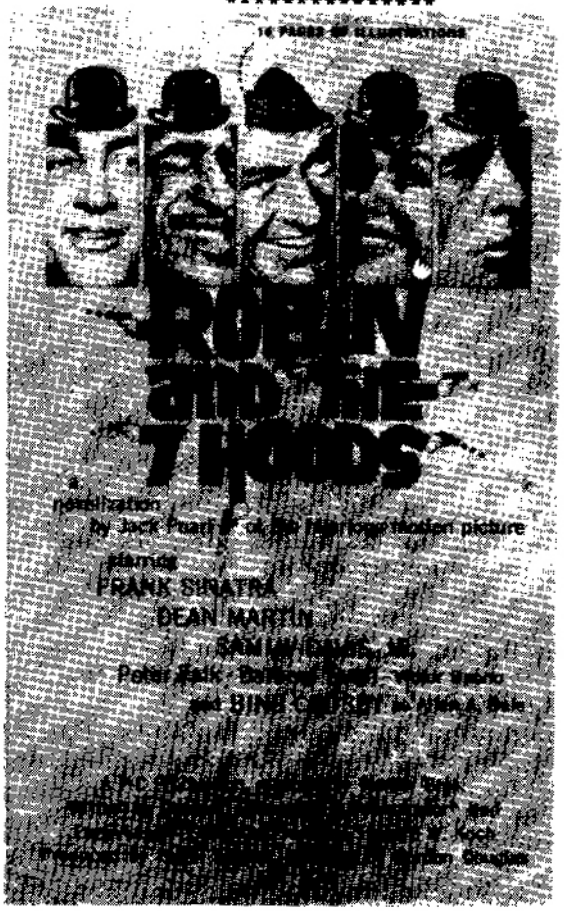
THE ALTERNATE BING CROSBY
Written by well-known collector Colin Pugh, this publication lists and analyses the various alternate takes of Bing's many records.

PHILCO RADIO TIMES
Written by Lionel Pairpoint, this book is a highly entertaining list of Bing's 104 Philco radio broadcasts with song titles, guests, patter and extensive notes.

Both books are available from the International Crosby Circle. (See previous page) However, you may need to be a member to buy.

Costs (for both): Australia £3.00 surface mail, £4.00 airmail.
UK and Europe: £2.50 postage paid.
USA and Canada $6.00 surface mail, $8.00 airmail.

RARE BING BOOKS



Continuing our series of book and magazine covers which in some way feature Bing, we present the cover of the now rare paperback book issued in 1964 to co-incide with the Frank Sinatra movie of that year: "Robin and the 7 Hoods". Bing, of course, took the role of Allen A Dale in the film. For a review of this production, see Page 32 of this magazine

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MORE LETTERS
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From Vern Taylor, Portland, USA

I am presently involved with Richard Todd, son of the late Dick Todd in working up an article for Bingang magazine. It is exciting, and Richard, a Canadian, is most cooperative. I am now on the lookout for anything and everything on his father, especially early-career newspaper and magazine material and radio work. If you or any of your members can help in any way with locating material, I will be forever grateful. (Vern's address for anyone who would like to write is PO Box 475, University Station, Portland, Oregon, 97207-0475, USA.)
Gordon and Joy Wall recently spent a week with Molly and me and thefour of us wore each other out in travelling and talking. We saw to it that they enjoyed severl of the more tourist-like things Oregon has to offer. This was their fourth visit up here.

From Graham Pascoe, Bathurst, NSW.

Roger Ward and I are moving ahead with preparations for a special radio show on Bathurst 2MCE-FM to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Bing's death in October. This will be the third Crosby programme we have presented since 1978. This time we will invite listeners to let us have their requests for favourite Crosby songs. Also, we have a special message of greetings from Ken Twiss of the Bing Crosby Historical Society. Of course, we will give the VBCS a plug too.

From Frans van der Kolff, Amsterdam.

My personal view on the Crosby auction is that while a lot of people want things which Bing touched personally, the really important things are those with which he touches us:his music, films and TV appearances. It's a point of view which helps me keep things in their proper context.

Loving Fan Devotes Her Life to Caring for Bing's Grave

Once every week for the past 4½ years, white-haired Marion Massey has risen at dawn and driven 25 miles to visit the grave of Bing Crosby.

There, on hands and knees, she fusses over the grave — planting flowers, pulling weeds and polishing the marble marker that reads: "Beloved by All — Harry Lillis Bing Crosby."

In life, Crosby was surrounded by admiring people who catered to his every whim. In death, the Ol' Groaner's final resting place is cared for only by Marion.

"When you love a person, you've got to take care of him, show respect for his memory," she explains.

Marion met Bing while she was working as a hostess for CBS in Hollywood in 1946. Each week for the next 10 years she and the superstar would chat briefly — and Marion developed a lifelong attraction to the crooner.

"I was struck by what a nice, gentle person he was. Even though Bing was a big star, he always had time to spend a moment to chat. He was always very courteous.

"It's probably the way he smiled. It made you feel warm inside, as if you'd known him all his life."

After Crosby left his radio show, Marion sent him cards at Christmas and whenever she heard he was sick.

She described with a shudder the moment she heard a news bulletin of the singer's death on Oct. 14, 1977.

"I was on my way to San Diego to meet my girlfriend. I said 'Oh, no!' I started to cry. I cried all the way down to San Diego."

Even though details of Crosby's funeral were supposed to be kept secret, determined Marion discovered the time and place.

"I said, 'There's nobody can keep me away from Bing!' I was there for the funeral. It was early in the morning, foggy and cloudy. It was a very sad morning."

Marion says that on her first visit to the grave in November 1977, a month after Bing's death, "I expected to find flowers piled high everywhere. But it was totally bare. There wasn't even a marker.

"I was shocked, very disappointed. It was heartbreaking.

"His wife, Kathryn, lived up north. Nevertheless, I would have imagined she'd have arranged for some flowers to be sent.

"I decided then that I was going to come once a week, so the memory of Bing would be held in respect.

"I bring down gardening implements, and cleaning implements to clean the stone. I really put in an 8-hour day.

"I met his wife up in Spokane, and she said, 'I want to thank you very much for taking care of Bing's grave.'"

Marion added, "I love him and I miss him. I believe that wherever he is, he knows what I'm doing."

— DAN SCHWARTZ

Crooner's Image Shines For Sister

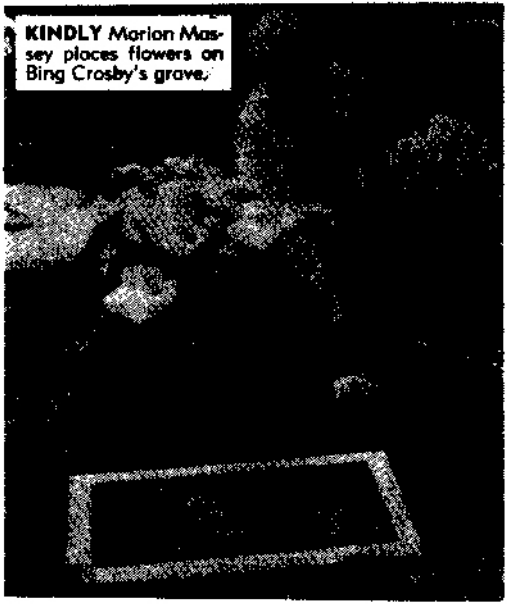
The old Crosby House in Tumwater entertained a few of its own people yesterday morning.

The late Bing Crosby's only living sister, Mary Rose Crosby Poole, is in town, along with her husband Jim; her cousin Brendt Crosby and his wife, Jean.

They're here to attend the third annual "Bink" Schmidt Golf Classic to take place on the Olympia Country and Golf Club course this Saturday and Sunday.

Brendt Crosby will play in the tournament with another member of the Olympia Brewery family, Bink's brother Bobby, as his partner.

The Crosbys, who are here from Carmel, Calif., visited the Crosby House yesterday and talked family history and Tumwater history with Mrs. Trueman Schmidt, Bink Schmidt's widow. Both Schmidts were active in restoring and maintaining the historic Crosby House.



KINDLY Marion Massey places flowers on Bing Crosby's grave.

Brendt displayed his father Frank Crosby's thick scrapbook which contained clippings from long ago, including an account of the death of the sea captain, Nathaniel Crosby. Nathaniel helped found Tumwater and built the Crosby House, now officially one of Washington state's historic buildings.

Mary Rose and her brother Bob, the two youngest of the seven children of Harry Lowe Crosby and Kate Harrigan Crosby, are the only living children.

Mary Rose said yesterday she believed she might have known her famous brother Bing (christened Harry Lillis) better than anyone else.

They were only three years apart in age, and though Catherine came between, Mary Rose and Bing shared enough interests and characteristics to knit them together.

"We liked to swim and to skate," Mary Rose recalled, "and none of the others did, particularly."

Both sang, though Mary Rose's interest in music fell far short of Bing's.

"From the time Bing was a little boy," Mrs. Poole said, "you could always hear him coming down the street. He was singing or whistling."

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MORE RECORD NEWS
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CROSBYANA - Broadway BR 111

A new arrival out of the USA recently has been a new LP with 16 tracks culled from late 1940's and early 1950's radio broadcasts. This issue is particularly interesting in that it features Bing with Jazz-orientated backings.

Dianne (Tommy Dorsey), Lady be Good (Tommy Dorsey and Joe Venuti), I Got Rhythm (Red Nichols, Joe Venuti, Perry Botkin, Peggy Lee and Oscar Levant), Blueberry Hill (Louis Armstrong and Jack Teagarden), Lazy Bones (Louis Armstrong and Jack Teagarden), It Had to Be You (Red Nichols), Make Believe You Are Glad When You're Sorry (Red Nichols, Buddy Cole, Matty Matlock), Sioux City Sue (same as previous track), Open up your heart (John Scott Trotter), Some Sunny Day (Red Nichols), Anytime (Just Bing!), Gypsy in my soul (Bing again!), It's easy to remember (Still only Bing!), St Louis Blues (Red Nichols, King Jackson, Matty Matlock, Joe Rushton, Earl Sturges), They can't take that away from me (Bing and Peggy Lee), Chattanooga Shoeshine boy (Joe Venuti).

The best part of all in these days of spiralling record prices, is the cost. About US $5.00 a copy including postage. Better write first and check the exact figure: Blue Lantern Records, PO Box 244, Milford, Michigan 48042, USA. Phone (313) 685 1933. (The number is for US members of course!)

The good news is that we have imported a handful of copies which will be on sale at our December 6th meeting. No reservations. First come, first served. Cost...wait for it: $3.00 a disc! Sorry, personal shopping only.

THAT OLD FEELING Karussell (German) 2872217

This LP features six tracks from Bing's 'Seasons' LP and six from Louis Armstrong. For the record, the six Crosby tracks are: Yesterday when I was young, In the good old Summertime, Seasons, On the very first day of the year, Summer Wind, September Song.

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BINGSANITY

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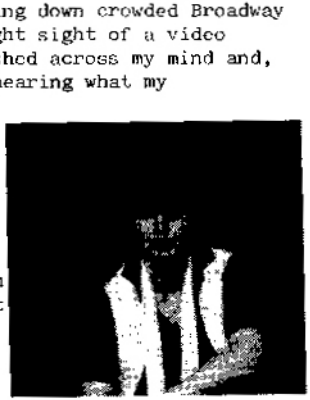
Written by Ineke Hommes, The Hague, Holland.

I wonder if it's a 'common disease' among Bingnuts, that they to lose a bit (or in serious cases every bit) of sense of so-called social conduct, while being on the chase for or busy with Bing-things. In any case, I'm told that I suffer from it. Or better still, others do the suffering while I glide by along the way.

For example, my mother and I were strolling down crowded Broadway one day during a holiday when my eye caught sight of a video shop. The complete Crosby film career flashed across my mind and, wasting no time, I sprinted inside, not hearing what my experienced companion called after me.



Having come to an abrupt standstill in front of one of the high racks, I gradually became aware of the many curious faces directed towards me - all mens' faces! Still not suspecting anything, I started going through the tapes and eventually, with my eyes on the umpteenth cassette, it dawned on my dazed mind that Bing's clothing used to be a lot more voluminous than what was shown on the front pictures of these videotapes, which disclosed various examples of the not all that dignifiedly dressed members of the female race. Now also, the reason for the still staring faces became clear; girls of (then) sixteen were not often seen in shops like that. As slowly as my shaky legs would carry me, I left the lugubrious place and, after some searching for her, saw how my mother was making an intensive study of the clear blue sky, a safe distance away.

It often happens that "under the influence of Bing" I find myself in rather unusual circumstances. Another notable event occurred about a year ago, on one of the final days of the school year. We had brought a cassette recorder into the classroom and, when the lesson started, we very softly played a cassette of Bing that I had taken with me.

Cont/....47

COLLECTOR'S

When I first began collecting Crosby records in the early 1960's the second-hand record shops were full of this LP. Not only hadn't I heard of this record, it didn't look like something I would even want! When I eventually found that I had to have it, it took me nearly twenty years before I found another copy!

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CORNER
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You may be familiar with the title and the contents of this early 10" LP but the cover is probably unfamiliar. It's one of a series of issues from the mid-1950's featuring compilations of Bing's Decca material - all collector's items today.

(Cont. from p.40)

Only in complete silence could one hear the soft baritone spreading its waves through the air. The chosen teacher, a rather naive soul, raised his eyebrows, turned his head sideways as if to hear better an enquired "Where on earth does that come from?" And to me "Say, isn't that whats his name, your favourite singer?"

Putting my most saintlike expression into action, I replied: "Why yes, now you mention it, it really sounds like Bing Crosby. Isn't that nice?".

Starting an exploration to the roots of the sound, he came dangerously close to where the recorder stood, so we hurried to the window to find out if perhaps it came from outside. The good man actually joined us at the window and looked quite confused. Then, according to plan, we suddenly turned on 'An Apple for the Teacher' very loudly. The whole thing at last became clear to teacher and before he could 'keep us after school', we presented him with a shiny red apple! We had a great time during the rest of that hour, listening to more Bingsongs!

Many more of such small events have taken place in my five years of 'Bingnutism' and have been the reasons for a lot of entertaining moments for many people. Bing himself may have left, but there's no doubt that he continues to be the source of great fun and pleasure. Whenever his voice, face or even name shows up, everyone can be sure to be in for a good time.

As one person once said to me: "This Bing Crosby, he's a sheer delight!" He couldn't have said it better!

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Thank you Ineke for an interesting and most entertaining article. If anyone cares to write to Ineke, she'll be happy to hear from you. The address: Ineke Hommes, Johan van Oldenbarneveltl 87, 2582 NK, The Hague, Holland.

Equally, if you would like to write to us as Ineke has, telling of some amusing anecdote regarding yourself and your interest in Crosby, or any other topic concerning Bing for that matter, drop us a line and we'll be happy to print your letter. Our address: PO Box 422, South Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3205.

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FROM OUT OF THE PAST
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(From 'Variety' - March 13th, 1929)

WHITEMAN PASSES UP PLENTY TO STAY EAST
Due on Coast May 2' for U - stops cross-country dance tour to H'Wood.

Paul Whiteman sacrificed a flock of cash and contracts for the sake of a few months in New York, taking the Old Gold Radio Hour over the Columbia network at $5,000 weekly for the 60 minutes and doubling with the Ziegfeld Midnite Frolic. In addition, Whiteman and his orchestra make an appearance in 'Whoopee' for the finale in the New Amsterdam theatre. He is now due on the Coast for Universals "Jazz King" (sic) picture May 28.

Exercising by Old Gold of its Whiteman options for the radio hour was the heaviest financial toll on the maestro's desire to stay in New York for the Winter and early Spring. Intending to break his jump westward on a transcontinental concert and dance tour until reaching Hollywood, Whiteman found himself bound to a regular Tuesday night schedule of radio performances.

Tentative contracts for the key city stop-offs en route to Universal City were summarily called off because Whiteman must broadcast his last Old Gold hour from New York May 28 for a remote control pick-up. His position with Ziggy is strictly optional with Whiteman, who is playing in the Midnite Frolics and in "Whoopee" as a courtesy.

A world tour, another Publix trip and concert are among other of Whiteman's present proposals.

(From 'Hollywood Reporter' - September 30th, 1930)

HONEYMOON LANE

Dixie Lee, Fox contract player was married to "Bing" Crosby, member of the Gus Arnhiem orchestra, yesterday as the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, in Hollywood. Miss Lee used the name of Wilma Wyatt at the marriage license bureau, which also accounts for the church not being filled to capacity for the ceremonies.

(From 'Hollywood Reporter'- June 25th, 1931)

NEW SENNETT SHORTS CLICK IN BIG STYLE
"I Surrender Dear" Mack Sennett

A winner! The tremendous popularity of Bing Crosby would have been sufficient to insure the success of his first short for Sennett, but in addition to his unquestioned "draw", 'I Surrender Dear' is packed full of laughs, love interest and everything it takes in the way of entertainment values. Exhibs can depend on it to bring in the crowds and keep them satisfied if the rest of the programme is weak.

Bing gets ample opportunity to croon his well known song from which the picture takes its name, as he plays himself in the picture. He meets a girl and falls in love with her; the rest of the picture is devoted to his efforts to get to know her better and win her from her jealous fiance.

The gags are clever and well put over. Direction and photography excellent. The entire cast does fine work. Arthur Stone, as Bing's pal, is especially good.

(From 'Hollywood Reporter' - October 30th, 1933)

CROSBY DEFINITELY OUT OF 'WONDERLAND'

After being in and out of "Alice in Wonderland" for Paramount for several times, Bing Crosby is now definitely out because the studio would not agree with the crooner's demands.

At first Crosby wanted to be paid for a full picture with the assignment only carrying a few days work, though all other players doing the roles received compensation for only part of the full picture salary. Then Crosby asked Paramount to give him permission to do one picture on the outside next year if he played in the picture, with the studio stamping a foot down on that. So Crosby will not be in the picture after all unless the crooner gives in in the next day or so.

(From 'Hollywood Reporter' - March 22nd, 1934)

BING CROSBY CANCELS TRIP
Reports of threat to kidnap his child cause radio star to stay home on guard.

Because of reports of kidnaping threats overhead having been made against his nine month old son, Bing Crosby, radio and screen star, yesterday announced cancellation of plans for a sailing vacation that was to have taken him away from home.

"These threats were made and I think it best to stay right at home and see that the matter goes no further," Crosby said. "I have taken every precaution to protect my family because I want the world to know that Hollywood no longer is taking gangster intimidations sitting down."

Crosby and his brother Everett have obtained permits to carry guns and are carrying them. A twenty-four hour armed guard has been placed around his home at Toluca Lake to thwart any attempt at entrance and police are co-operating to the fullest extent by keeping radio officers cruising around the neighbourhood to rout out loiterers.

Crosby took these precautions as a result of a telephone conversation which was overheard in the Pacific Electric Station that two apparently were planning to kidnap the actor's son as exclusively revealed in the Times yesterday morning. Crosby is just finishing his new picture at Paramount studio.

(From 'Hollywood Reporter' - August 19th, 1935)

Probably the most complete fan we've ever heard of, works in a sweet shop on Vine Street. The gal is a Crosby fan. The radio in her shop is always tuned into a station playing Crosby records or giving forth his broadcasts, regardless of whether Roosevelt might be talking, or a champion fight might be going on, or anything else important. She has nine complete press books on Bing that she's clipped from magazines and newspapers. But here's the thing. The gal hasn't got Bing's autograph, nor does she want it. Furthermore, she's never met him and doesn't want to, because, she says, "He's my dream. If I spoke to him, well....maybe I wouldn't like him as much."

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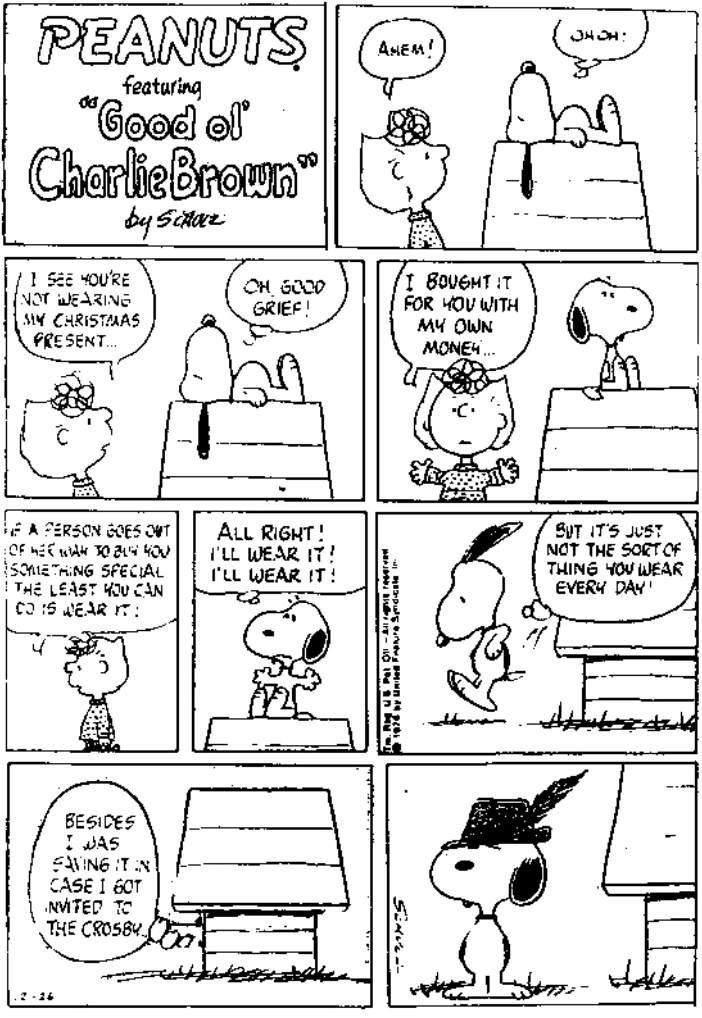
And there we'll bring to an end this edition of 'The Crosby Voice'. May I wish you all the best for the coming festive season and, hope that your Christmas presents turn out more suitable than Snoopy's on the next page!


PEANUTS
featuring
"Good ol' Charlie Brown"
by Schulz
AHEM!
OH OH!
I SEE YOU'RE NOT WEARING MY CHRISTMAS PRESENT...
OH, GOOD GRIEF!
I BOUGHT IT FOR YOU WITH MY OWN MONEY...
IF A PERSON GOES OUT OF HER WAY TO BUY YOU SOMETHING SPECIAL THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS WEAR IT!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL WEAR IT! I'LL WEAR IT!
BUT IT'S JUST NOT THE SORT OF THING YOU WEAR EVERY DAY!
BESIDES I WAS SAVING IT IN CASE I GOT INVITED TO THE CROSBY.
Schulz